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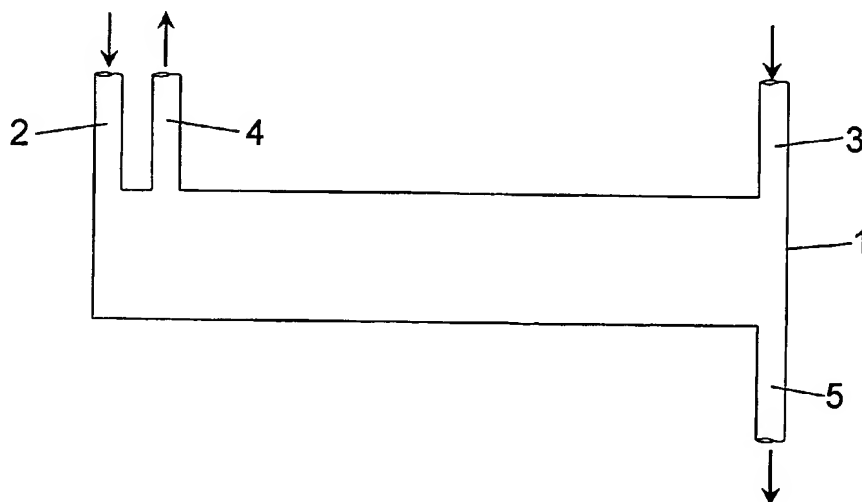
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING METAL-OXYGEN COMPOUNDS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of reducing a metal-oxygen compound wherein carbon acts as a reducing agent, comprising in a first reaction stage, passing CO gas into a reaction chamber containing said metal-oxygen compound, under conditions such that CO is converted to solid carbon and carbon dioxide thereby introducing the solid carbon so formed to said metal-oxygen compound, and in a second reaction stage, causing said carbon, which is introduced to the metal-oxygen compound in said first reaction stage, to reduce said metal-oxygen compound, wherein there is present, at least in said second reaction stage, a first promoter material effective to promote the reduction of said metal-oxygen compound, the first promoter material comprising a first promoter metal and/or a compound of a first promoter metal. The invention also relates to an apparatus for carrying out the reduction of a metal-oxygen compound wherein carbon acts as a reducing agent.

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